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— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

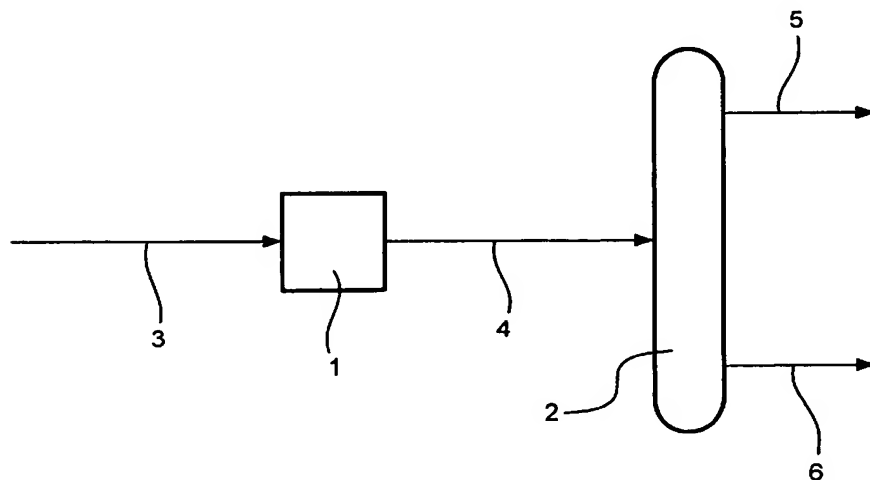
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(54) Title: PURIFICATION PROCESS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a process for reducing the nitrogen content of a liquid hydrocarbon feed wherein said process comprises a) contacting a liquid hydrocarbon feed comprising an alkylating agent and organic nitrogen species with an acidic catalyst at elevated temperature in a first reaction zone to generate a liquid hydrocarbon feed comprising a reduced alkylating agent content and organic nitrogen species of higher boiling point. b) fractionating the liquid hydrocarbon feed comprising a reduced alkylating agent content and organic nitrogen species of higher boiling point to remove the organic nitrogen species of higher boiling point to generate a liquid hydrocarbon feed comprising a reduced alkylating agent content and a reduced nitrogen content.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT, 03/01637

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C10G29/20 C10G29/22 C10G53/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C10G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 171 916 A (LE QUANG N ET AL) 15 December 1992 (1992-12-15) column 3, paragraph 3; claims 1,4,7	1-19
A	US 6 024 865 A (ALEXANDER BRUCE D ET AL) 15 February 2000 (2000-02-15) cited in the application claims 1,2	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

Z document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Annex on patent family members

Intern. Application No.

PCT. ... 3/01637

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			AU 6026299 A	27-03-2000
			EP 1029025 A2	23-08-2000
			JP 2002524608 T	06-08-2002
			WO 0014182 A2	16-03-2000